

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q78930

Kazuo HIRAGUCHI

Appln. No.: Not Yet Assigned

Confirmation No.: Not Yet Assigned

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: **December 16, 2003**

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: RECORDING TAPE CARTRIDGE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents, other than any U.S. patents and patent publications, is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date; (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant submits the following explanations:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
Attorney Docket No.: Q78930

Japanese Patent No. 3187022 corresponds to US Patent No. 5,901,916 and is cited and discussed on page 1 in the specification of the above identified application. Also, English language abstracts, submitted herewith, constitute concise statements of relevance for Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No's. 2000-331454, 63-251983 and 2002-197833, all of which are cited and discussed on pages 4, 5 and 6, respectively, in the specification of the above identified application.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,



SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

Darryl Mexic
Registration No. 23,063

WASHINGTON OFFICE
23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: December 16, 2003

Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO		<i>Complete if Known</i>	
<u>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</u>		Application Number	Not Yet Assigned
		Confirmation Number	Not Yet Assigned
		Filing Date	December 16, 2003
		First Named Inventor	Kazuo HIRAGUCHI
		Art Unit	Not Yet Assigned
		Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	1	of	1
		Attorney Docket Number	Q78930

Examiner Signature _____ **Date Considered** _____

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.